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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80

2 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children provided with
3 recess are more focused, on-task, and able to concentrate on
4 educational material than those who are not afforded a recess
5 period; cognitive function improves when a child has the
6 opportunity for physical exercise and active play; and

7 WHEREAS, Obesity rates among children have skyrocketed in
8 recent years, with one in three American children now being
9 considered overweight or obese; recess provides children with
10 the opportunity for physical exercise during the school day;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Recess is essential for providing students with a
13 less structured period of time in which to engage in social
14 interactions and develop interpersonal relationships with
15 peers; it is often during this time that children improve their
16 leadership and conflict resolution skills; and

17 WHEREAS, A large number of students go every school day
18 with no opportunity for a recess period; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Recess in Schools

1 Task Force within the State Board of Education; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide
4 administrative and other support to the Task Force; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with
7 examining the barriers facing schools in providing daily recess
8 to every age-appropriate student and making recommendations
9 for overcoming those obstacles; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be comprised of the
11 following 15 members:

12 (1) two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom
13 shall be a medical professional with expertise in
14 children's health issues;

15 (2) one member appointed by the President of the
16 Senate;

17 (3) one member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

18 (4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives;

20 (5) one member appointed by the House Minority Leader;

21 (6) one member appointed by the Chicago Board of
22 Education;

23 (7) one member appointed by the Governor upon

1 recommendation of the education labor organization
2 representing Chicago public school teachers;

3 (8) one member appointed by the Governor upon
4 recommendation of a Statewide education labor
5 organization;

6 (9) one member appointed by the Governor upon
7 recommendation of another Statewide education labor
8 organization;

9 (10) one member appointed by the Governor upon
10 recommendation of an organization representing principals;

11 (11) one member appointed by the Governor upon
12 recommendation of a Chicago-based coalition of low-income
13 mothers and grandmothers focusing on family issues;

14 (12) one member appointed by the Governor upon
15 recommendation of a parent-teacher organization;

16 (13) one member appointed by the Governor upon
17 recommendation of an organization advocating for juvenile
18 justice reform;

19 (14) one member appointed by the Governor upon
20 recommendation of an organization that advocates for
21 healthy school environments; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Task Force must meet within 60 days
23 after the adoption of this resolution and submit a final report
24 to the General Assembly by January 1, 2011 with its
25 recommendations for bringing recess back to the maximum number

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1 of students.